

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 472

By Gant

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bill Dance for his meritorious service as a professional fisherman.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those estimable public servants who, through their extraordinary efforts, have become leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Bill Dance, who has rendered more than sixty years of commendable service as a professional angler and outdoorsman; and

WHEREAS, Bill Dance is the first superstar of professional bass fishing, and throughout the years, he has taught several generations how to fish; and

WHEREAS, from his production studio in Collierville, Mr. Dance manages a fishing empire, which includes his legendary television shows, tackle endorsements, how-to seminars, and a series of popular blooper videos; he is a true representative to the State and has always been filmed or photographed wearing his trademark orange and white University of Tennessee hat; and

WHEREAS, he began competing in and winning bass tournaments in the 1960s, and since 1968, he has appeared in more than 2,000 shows; he has educated millions of fishing enthusiasts as the host and producer of *Bill Dance Outdoors* and *Bill Dance Saltwater*, which air on the Outdoor Channel and Sportsman Channel, respectively; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents, Mr. Dance has written seven books, and his articles have been published in *Sports Afield*, *Field & Stream*, *Bassmaster*, and *Outdoor Life*, among others; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Dance has received twenty-three national Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) titles; he holds three B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year titles and eight Bassmaster Classic Qualifier titles, and he placed in the top ten forty times; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Mr. Dance received an honorary doctorate from the University of Tennessee, a most befitting honor that recognizes his outstanding contributions to the sport of fishing; he was again recognized and celebrated the same year by country music legend Luke Bryan, who released an ode titled "Bill Dance"; and

WHEREAS, for more than five decades, Mr. Dance has diligently represented the State of Tennessee and distinguished himself among the most astute professional fishermen and as an exceptional leader in his community; and

WHEREAS, Bill Dance epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Bill Dance for his years of dedicated service to the State of Tennessee and the sport of fishing and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.